

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03

CEA-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /242 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6248

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRESENT STATUS OF AEGEAN DISPUTE: REACTION TO
CARACAS CONFERENCE

1. EMBOFF CALLED SEPTEMBER 23 ON GUNALTAY SIBAY, CHIEF OF THE MARITIME AND AVIATION SECTIONS OF THE FONMIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT. SIBAY, WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOS, AEGEAN, AND MONTREAUX CONVENTION AFFAIRS, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE WHERE HE WAS ADVISOR TO TURKISH DELEGATION. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON PRESENT STATUS AEGEAN DISPUTE WITH GREECE AND TURKISH REACTION TO LOS CONFERENCE.

2. AEGEAN DISPUTE. SIBAY, WHO HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH CYPRUS MATTERS, REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT AEGEAN DISPUTE MORE "EXPLOSIVE" THAN CYPRUS BECAUSE BOTH TURKISH AND GREEK VITAL INTEREST MORE GREATLY AFFECTED IN AEGEAN. HE WARNED THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE WAS NECESSARY
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TO AVERT AN EXPLOSION.

3. SIBAY REFERRED TO A RECENT EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH GREEKS WHO PROTESTED RECENT AWARD (JULY 18) OF EXPLORATION LEASES BY GOT TO TURKISH PETROLEUM OFFICE (TPAO) ON GROUNDS LEASE AREAS IN GREEK WATERS. GOT REJECTED NOTE ON SEPTEMBER 17, SAYING AREA PART OF TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THAT DISPUTE COULD NOT BE SETTLED UNTIL THERE WERE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. LOS. SIBAY HAD NEGATIVE REACTION TO CARACAS CONFERENCE. IN HIS OPINION CONFERENCE ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE OR NOTHING, BUT THAT WAS WHAT HE HAD EXPECTED. HE BELIEVES TURKISH DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO FULLY EXPLAIN TURKISH POSITION ON AEGEAN ISSUE TO U.S. DEL., AND THAT U.S. DEL WAS FRANK IN ITS DISCUSSION OF LIMITATIONS ON OUR SUPPORT OF TURKISH POSITION.

5. COMMENT:IN OUR CONTACTS OVER LAST WEEKS WITH TOP LEVEL GOT OFFICIALS THEY HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND, WHILE AEGEAN ISSUE HAS BEEN MENTIONED, IT IS IN CONTEXT OF TOTAL PACKAGE OF DIFFICULTIES IN GREEK-TURK RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THESE COMMENTS FROM SIBAY, AN OPERATIONAL OFFICER DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE AEGEAN, SHOW THAT AT THE MIDDLE LEVELS THE ISSUE IS STILL SIMMERING AND COULD EASILY BECOME MUCH HOTTER.
MACOMBER

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